

THE FORESTERS ASK LEGISLATION

They Want the State to Help
Them in Crusade Against
Pests

Was Well Attended, and There
Was Much Enthusiasm—The
Work That is Being Done—
Some Prominent Gentlemen
Make Addresses—Address Last
Night at the Auditorium—For-
estry Work is Being Extended,
and Promises to Be Something
Worth While

A convention of a surprisingly large amount of enthusiasm was that which deliberated Wednesday of last week in the Auditorium with an illustrated lecture to a very good audience.

This was the second annual meeting of the North Carolina Forestry Association and it opened yesterday morning at 10:30 in the House of Representatives. Rev. A. D. Wilcox offered prayer and Governor W. W. Kitchen made the address of welcome. Governor Kitchen expressed great interest in the proposition to save the forests of the State and said that he had been glad to see so many here representing such a varied citizenship.

There were many visitors. They came as delegates and as representatives of bodies devoted to civic improvement. Dr. D. H. Hill of the A. & M. College, who was president of the association, made the annual address in which he told of the meaning of forestry improvement and how the work had been furthered by publicity. He introduced Attorney General Bickett, who told the association how to proceed about securing a law which would help the cause.

Insurance Commissioner Young's plan for protecting the State against these fire losses caused a deal of favorable comment, and the address of Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt upon the forestry work of North Carolina's Geological and Economic Survey made a splendid showing for a short period.

Mr. Mason's Address.

Mr. E. B. Mason, of the Bureau of Entomology, made an interesting address upon the control of the Southern pine beetle. He gave three reasons for the pleasure that he had in making the address. The first one was the interest that North Carolina showed in the pine beetle destruction; the second was the co-operation of the North Carolina Forestry Association in the formation of the Mecklenburg County Pine Beetle Association with the Gaston Forestry Association, followed by similar organizations; and, third, because they are fighters in fact and not in name.

Mr. Mason painted a gloomy picture of the dead pine, the work of the un-slain pine beetle. He said that there is no need of trying to resurrect that timber. It is dead. He believed that the living pine may be saved. This pest has existed 40 years. Its great invasions of 1890-93, are well remembered, though, for the most part, its work has not been so spectacular. There can be expected no natural factor to come to the aid of the dying groups of pine. Unusual climatic conditions stopped a Virginia devastation, but it isn't to be counted on.

The speaker showed how the beetle works. The vandal operates in thirty days and he is a prolific institution. You do not find the beetle broods in dead trees. That's why it is easy to locate them. The trees attacked by the beetles, he said, ought to be cut into cordwood and burned bark and all. The time to do this is in the winter. The fallen tree attracts the attention of the beetles for miles, in the summer. If done, it ought to be done by the community.

Mr. Mason quoted State Forester J. S. Holmes as having said that there has been more pine timber destroyed by the Southern pine beetle than by the forest fires. Concerted work can destroy the beetle now. The advice can be had from headquarters, the people themselves must act.

The Night Lecture.

The lecture last night in the Auditorium was given by Mr. J. G. Peters and slides were used. Many of these were pictures taken from North Carolina and familiar mountain and eastern regions were shown. The results of fires, of erosion, of water and every hostile element were shown on the canvas. Mr. Peters spoke briefly of the work that the departments have been doing and of the interest that the forests are

creating throughout the nation. Devastation complete in the Lake States was shown and the measures of prevention were forcefully illustrated. They are simple and the look-out stations are simple and the actual operation.

The schools patronized the lecture, which was free, of course, well. One found considerable interest in the matter. The lecturer was frequently cheered and the stereopticon views illustrated in simple way something that a technical paper could hardly have done.

The funniest thing of the convention was said by Mr. Hugh MacRae. He and all of the men antagonized the view that nature can be counted to provide the weapons of aggressive warfare. Speaking of the shiftless man who puts his hogs out to root up the budding forests of the future, his sheep to eat the cones, his cows to trample them down and himself to put out the fool fire for the consumption of everybody, he said: "However, nature does not give up the fight. She attacks the hogs with cholera, his cows with the cattle tick fever and the man himself with poverty."

Will Start Greater Interest.

The result of yesterday's meeting will go further than the simple creation of local interest, large as that was. The General Assembly will have the matter put squarely up to it. The extension of the stock law, by which action there will be stopped roaming of sorry cattle and hogs, will do much. Mr. MacRae told a good story of the Hollander who had tried to raise the common cattle, manifestly growing up out of the soil. He could not do it and it cost everything put in them to make what they were sold for. They must be put away and improved stock tried.

The Afternoon Session.

When the convention opened in the afternoon, a very liberal attendance of the women was noted. The moment the body was called to order, Mr. Alston Grimes, of Pitt, was introduced, who made the first address. He told first of a neighbor of his who bought a tract of land for \$500, from which he had sold \$3,500, retaining still the land and much of the timber. This neighbor, he said, had preserved the forests by prohibiting hunting. I have not been successful in that respect," Mr. Grimes said, "but I do not allow, after giving written permissions, the hunters to carry an axe and chop the possum tree down."

Mr. Grimes said he required all of his tenants to pay \$5 an acre when fire is allowed to run over it. They think it a hardship at first, but agree afterwards that it is the right thing," he said.

Mr. C. C. Smoot, of Wilkes, gave a short account of the Wilkes way of fighting fires, a neighborhood war against the glazes of the community. He said he had become greatly interested in the fight against the blight which is killing the chestnut trees in the western part of the State.

Mrs. Al Fairbrother, of Greensboro, was called upon to say a word for the subject from the viewpoint of the ladies. She said she had not come as a speaker or as a suggester, but as a learner. She told of some of the work done by the ladies of Greensboro, the establishment of a children's play grounds in Greensboro, the work of the Civic Association.

Dr. A. A. Johnson, a colored man, interested in the work, was called upon by Dr. Hill, who wished to hear what he had to say.

Dr. Johnson declared that as poor a man as he is, he would have declined a gift of \$500 to get here at this time. He was born in the old country and said that he had not known what the dominant race has done for the colored people until he came to the South. "I want to say," he said, "that not half what has been written and said about this question is true." He declared that as an agricultural race, this subject would be a great help to them, that the forests belong to the black people.

Dr. J. G. Peters.

Dr. J. G. Peters, of the government service, made the first address on the program, nothing the protected acreage in the country, which is about 200,000,000. He said there are 15 States in the Union taking considerable interest in the preservation of the forests.

They do this by patrols, by lookout stations, supported by appropriation. He said that these patrols are as much for the prevention of fires. Some of these laws, he said, provide for the calling into service of people to help put down fires.

The Weeks law was referred to by the speaker. It provides for the same appropriation by the government that the State gives. Of course, it is not an inflexible rule. The appropriation must be as large as the government gift.

The appropriations for protection in the various States were given. Connecticut has \$1,500, Maine \$75,000, Maryland \$1,200, Massachusetts \$10,000, Michigan \$10,000, Minnesota \$75,000, New Hampshire \$15,000, New Jersey \$15,000, New York \$105,000, Oregon \$30,000, Pennsylvania \$50,000, Vermont \$2,000, Washington \$33,000, and Wisconsin \$30,000.

The paper of Mr. Peters was a general treatment of fires, how much they have cost from time to time and how they have cost to put them

out. He hoped North Carolina would be the first State south of Maryland to pass a law on this subject.

The absence of the State Forester of Maryland necessitated the reading of his paper by the secretary. It dealt in a specific way with Maryland's treatment of fires, that State handling them more cheaply than any other State.

Many questions were asked Mr. Peters here. One of the questioners desired to know the implements of warfare. The hoe, the rake, and the collapsible canvas pail, were answered. He was also asked as to the pay given the patrolmen; he replied, "Various wages, some of them \$75 a month, some by the hour." He declared that the volunteers are supported by the State and they range from 15 to 20 to 50 cents an hour.

Mr. D. H. MacRae.

Mr. MacRae declared that his subject, "The Stock Law with reference to Forest Preservation," is not popular. He gave his reason. Men are not naturally lovers of effort. One of his sallies was this: "The boys found out the method of tree propagation and brat us to it." In telling of his sallies was this: "The hogs found out the method of tree propagation they develop into high speed brates like Kipling's kangaroo." He said also that "one man with 20 hogs, 20 sheep, 10 cows and a fire can keep 10,000 acres devastated." He offered to leave this up to somebody else to prove.

Mr. MacRae took up the value of forests as conservers of moisture, as protection to winds, as well as matters of commerce and said the legislature of the State ought to be asked to take some action against it.

The salvation of the future, he declared, depends upon it. The forests are great civilizers. North Carolina now has pretty nearly the perfect rain distribution. It can be cultivated only by the preservation of the forests. He called upon the people to aid in the work.

Following the speaker's address it was declared by Mr. W. N. Hutt that a standpat or unintelligent farmer had recommended in the rearing of hogs, that they be turned out to make their living in the forests. Do you know what that meat costs you?" the progressive farmer asked. "Just \$3 a pound."

The resolutions were then read. They embrace a multitude of good things.

Mr. H. M. Cates, of the Farmers' Alliance, made a rousing speech as the convention was about to adjourn. He had been sent here to hear what was going on. He was glad that he had come. "The farmers, I believe, are with you. I did not belong to your organization, but I've got my dollar with me and I am going to join. We have got to protect our forests against the fires and careless men."

Mrs. R. R. Cotten, president of the Women's Federation of Clubs of North Carolina, spoke of her joy in the perpetuity and continuity of the long leaf pine. The clubs are doing what they can do to teach forest preservation in the schools.

Col. Bryan Grimes.

Col. J. Bryan Grimes spoke in whirlwind shape for the increased enthusiasm of the people in these matters. He declared that if there were 1,000 farmers like Mr. Cates in North Carolina, there would be a revolution in the State upon forest protection.

He called the attention of the men present to the ruthless destruction of the trees and even the lands, by the unintelligent handling of lumber when gotten out by the mill men. It destroys not only the undergrowth, the forests of tomorrow, but hurts the lands. He spoke of the trifling prices which timber had been sold at in the past. Concluding he made a motion that a committee be appointed by the chairman which would carry before the Attorney General a request to prepare a suitable law for enactment by the General Assembly. It went through with a shout.

Gov. T. J. Jarvis.

The call upon Hon. T. J. Jarvis brought a big cheer from the house. He declared that he makes it a business to be present when there is anything for the good of North Carolina going on. He said that with the proper enthusiasm the forests may yet be preserved. They reproduce rapidly and with laws to protect the forests the men who are now interested in this work can accomplish that end. The Governor said that he had been able to learn something at this meeting, that as soon as he heard about it, he came out.

Mr. W. E. White.

The Mebane gentleman is a big lumberman, but he favored all that has been done and said and declared that the lumber association of the South will co-operate with the Forestry Association in its efforts to preserve the forests. He had been asked to say so. Mr. White called himself the father of the chair industry in the South and he was greatly interested in seeing the forest preserved.

Mr. Z. W. Whitehead, of Wilmington, spoke a word for the mill men. He said that all others had been defended. The average man isn't so ruthless as might be thought. He had found the sawmill man a good deal more conscientious than the fire

ROUTE OF THE ROAD

Plans of the Raleigh, Charlotte and Southern, as
Seen in the Routes Being Surveyed

The following from the Chatham Record tells something of the survey being made for the new route from Raleigh to Charlotte:

"A party of ten surveyors are surveying a preliminary line for the new Raleigh, Charlotte and Southern Railroad Company, from Fuquay in Wake county, to Borsal, the junction point of the Seaboard Air Line, with the Durham and South Carolina Railroad, twenty-three miles south of Raleigh. We heard also that this party will continue their survey in this direction, and that the new road may be built in this direction instead of from Fuquay Springs to Colon, as at first contemplated.

"It is also said that the Durham and South Carolina Railroad, which was being graded from Borsal to Rawles (on the Raleigh and Southport) will not be graded and extended to Rawles, but may be used by the new company for their road from Fuquay Springs to Borsal. The contractor who was grading the proposed road to Rawles has been stopped and his force has been ordered not to grade to Rawles, but to turn back and grade in the direction of Borsal and meet the force now grading from Borsal towards Dr. B. W. Burt's farm.

"Even if the proposed survey does not come to Pittsboro yet it will come somewhere in this section and, if a desirable line is found, the railroad may be built near here.

vandal. The State suffers very much less on his account than upon the account of the lumberman.

Officers Elected.

The committee on nominations offered the name of C. B. Wright, of Bladen, as president and Mr. J. S. Holmes, of Chapel Hill, secretary. He is the State Forester and was secretary at yesterday's meeting.

The Resolutions.

Resolutions in eight different paragraphs were offered. The first asked the support of the Geological and Economic Survey and spoke of the need of that aid.

The second asked that in view of the fact that in order to secure the advantage of the Weeks act, providing for an appropriation if the State has a paid fire protection, the State secure that advantage at the earliest possible moment.

The committee reported the hearty seconding of the efforts of the Federation of Women's Clubs to have a forestry course taught at the State University. It also recommended that there be made a general observance of Arbor Day over North Carolina and that the schools be asked to do that.

The report advocates a State fire system and asks the Legislature to make provision for it.

It pledges the association's support in receiving the State's pro rata of the \$80,000 set aside for the combating of the virulent fungus known as the Chestnut Tree Blight. It asks that the matter be brought to the attention of the General Assembly.

It resolves for the extension of the stock law with reference to ranging of cattle, to which it ascribes the indirect cause of many fires in the State, resulting in much property loss.

It calls upon the railways to put spark arresters on their smokestacks, guarding against the hot cinders that have caused so many fires. And in the eighth and last place, it fights the pine beetle, supports the Bureau of Entomology and the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey. Upon their reading and approval, the convention adjourned for the afternoon session, preparing for the evening lecture.

FERTILIZERS FOR FARMERS.

County Business Agents of Farmers' Union to Meet in Greenville Today and in Raleigh Tomorrow.

Mr. J. R. Rives, of Sanford, the State Business Agent of the Farmers' Union, was in Raleigh yesterday on his way to Greenville to attend a meeting of the county business agents of the Union in Eastern Carolina.

"At the meeting," said Mr. Rives, "we are to take up the matter of fertilizers for the farmer. Our plan is to have the farmers pay as they go, to pay for their fertilizers on the first of December and the first of May. We do not wish the farmers to overload themselves with fertilizer, and we wish them to buy the material for home mixture. At the meeting arrangements are to be made for the fertilizers in the spring."

Three other meetings of county business agents of the Farmers' Union are to be held. One will be at Raleigh tomorrow, one at Salisbury on the 24th and one at Aberdeen on the 28th.

We grow by doing right and we shrink by doing wrong.